

ENERGY TIDBITS – September 2008

\$12,499,757 in Energy Efficiency Grants have been awarded to 16 organizations by the MPSC. Grants were for technology programs, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) programs, and green community programs. The 7 technology programs included high energy density batteries, a small wind system, and biomass gasification. There were 5 CFL programs including a \$1 million grant to Urban Options. The 4 Green Community grants included two PV demonstrations. The grants are part of the Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund, which provides energy bill assistance for low-income customers and promotes the efficient use of energy. www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16400_17280-198905--,00.html

12th Annual Sustainable Business Conference of Michigan – Energizing Michigan's Green Future will be held on November 13, 7:30-4:15 at the Fetzer Center, Western Michigan U. The conference focuses on Michigan's business and energy future, and will bring together sustainable businesses, college students, and advocacy groups from across the state with an interest in renewable energy and sustainable business. Speakers will include Andrew Winston, author of "Green to Gold," and Jerome Ringo of the Apollo Alliance. <http://www.southwestmichigansustainablebusinessforum.org/>

White Birch Lodge, Elk Rapids, has earned Green Lodging Michigan Partner certification. The Lodge has a linen and towel reuse program and a comprehensive recycling program. White Birch Lodge is also conducting an energy audit on the property to discover ways to improve energy efficiency and cut utility costs. "We've always been concerned with our effect on the environment and have worked in certain areas to lower our impact," said Lauren Conrad, staff director at White Birch Lodge. "Green Lodging Michigan has given us the opportunity to get serious about adjusting some of our practices and focus on areas that can be continually improved." <http://www.whitebirchlodge.org/>

PAYS Working Group has been created by the MPSC. The working group comes as a result of a \$50,000 grant from the National Governors Association. The grant's purpose is to develop a statewide infrastructure to support a program modeled after the Pay as You Save (PAYS) system and to implement up to four pilot projects. Under this type of program, the customer at a location where energy efficient measures are installed pays a charge on the utility bill until all measure costs, including financing costs, are paid. In all cases, the energy cost savings from the products installed are guaranteed to exceed the charge. Those interested in participating in the working group should file their notice of intent to participate by Sept. 19 in Case No. U-15633.

Herman Miller's investments in areas such as energy efficiency have resulted in a 32% rate of return according to a case study by Forrester Research. According to the study, Herman Miller has already reduced landfill waste by 80%, hazardous waste by 91%, overall emissions by 87%, and water usage by 67%,

while doubling sales to more than \$2 billion. The company uses techniques such as lean manufacturing and the Cradle to Cradle Design Protocol to improve efficiency of manufacturing and reduce cost. The company is aiming to be carbon-neutral by 2020.

New York City Summer Streets took place for three consecutive Saturdays in August from 7:00 am - 1:00 pm. Seven miles of streets were open only to pedestrians and cyclists. The route will connect the Brooklyn Bridge with Central Park and there will be recommended connections to the Hudson River Greenway. The event is modeled on similar events held in Bogota and Paris.

Energy Efficiency Forums from DTE Energy will start in Escanaba on Sept. 8. Experts, suppliers, and installers will provide advice on managing energy costs. Thru November, 22 forums will be held around the state.
<http://my.dteenergy.com/products/energySeminars/energyEfficiency.html>

Michigan Clean Transportation Expo & Awards Gala will celebrate Michigan's burgeoning clean transportation industry on Sept. 24 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. <http://www.mct-expo.com/>

800 MW of PV have been announced by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. As of 2007, the U.S. has 473 MW of grid-connected PV. PG&E's plans include a 550 MW PV plant with Optisolar and a 250 MW project with SunPower, both to be constructed in phases between 2010 and 2013. The two projects will deliver 1.65 billion kWh's of electricity per year, enough energy to serve about 239,000 homes.

High Performance Green Buildings will be held on Sept. 25, 8:00-4:30 at the Marriott Detroit Livonia. This practical program for architects, engineers, and contractors will cover building envelopes, ASHRAE energy standards, solar energy, wind energy, geothermal, and green roofs.
www.halfmoonseminars.com

Green Building Code has been adopted by the California Building Standards Commission that policymakers say is the first of its kind in the nation. The new code will be voluntary until 2010, when its provisions are expected to become mandatory. The code sets targets for energy efficiency, water consumption, dual plumbing systems for potable and recyclable water, diversion of construction waste from landfills and use of materials in construction and design. The standards cover commercial and residential construction in the public and private sectors. The green thresholds include a 15% reduction in energy use compared to current standards. All the measures would at least be comparable to the requirements of a "silver rating" under the (LEED) standards.
www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/prpsd_stds/combined_green_et_7_08.pdf

Climate Change, Energy, & Community Impacts will be held on September 3, 5:30pm-9pm at the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort in Mt. Pleasant. The Saginaw

Chippewa Indian Tribe is hosting this meeting to discuss the potential impacts of 8 new coal power plants. Presentations will include Steve Smiley on Renewable Energy as an Economic Development tool, Peter Sinclair on "An Inconvenient Truth", and Lee Sprague, Michigan Sierra Club on "Coal Rush".

Goodbye Water Works and Electric Company! Hello solar and wind! Hasbro Games has decided to ditch the traditional utilities in Monopoly and instead add some renewable technologies. The green elements will find their way into Monopoly Here & Now: The World Edition.

Plug-in Hybrid-electric Vehicle demonstration and development projects will receive up to \$30 million from DOE. General Motors, Ford and General Electric, which is working with Chrysler, aim to accelerate the development of PHEVs capable of traveling up to 40 miles without recharging.

PV Production increased to 3,800 MW worldwide in 2007, 50% more than 2006. Cumulative global production now stands at 12,400 MW. PV production has been doubling every two years. www.earthpolicy.org/Indicators/Solar/2007.htm

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